

Appl. No. 09/868,375
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 20 June 2007

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Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-34 (canceled)

35. (Previously presented) A graphical user interface for use with a data processing device, comprising:

- a touch screen for stroking by a user;

- a plurality of user responsive display elements for displaying on the screen, the elements comprising:

- a flow zone comprising a list of flowing links displayed around a periphery of the screen and a flow control means responsive to appropriate strokes made on the touch screen by the user within the flow zone to selectively change flow speed and flow direction of the flowing links;; and

- a presentation zone for presenting information selected from the flowing links as a presentation.

36. (Previously presented) The interface of claim 35, wherein the display elements further comprise at least one flow control element, a respective flow control element being disposed adjacent to each flowing link.

37. (Previously presented) The interface of claim 35, further comprising a plurality of control zones disposed together for effecting control of other display elements.

38. (Previously presented) The interface of claim 37, wherein the control zones comprise

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an agent zone for selecting filtering agents for filtering contents of the flow zone;

a mode zone for altering a format of other zones; and

an annotation zone for annotating information in the presentation zone.

39. (Previously presented) The interface of claim 35 further comprising at least one token zone for displaying personal links, wherein the personal links may be dragged to other zones to affect what is displayed in the other zones.

40. (Previously presented) The interface of claim 39, wherein the token zone is in the form of a carousel.

41. (Previously presented) A table comprising the user interface of claim 35 and adapted for a respective user to sit adjacent to said flow zone.

42. (Currently amended) An information processing device for exploring information by a user, comprising:

a display screen to display a plurality of flowing links within a flow zone, each of the flowing links being linked to respective information units for display as a presentation in a presentation zone of the display screen; and

~~an input device responsive to control by the user to directly alter the flow of the links and to select one of the flowing links, wherein the flow zone comprises a flow control means~~

a controller that is configured responsive to appropriate manipulation of the input device by the user within the flow zone to selectively change flow speed and flow direction based on locations of user input events within the flow zone.

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43. (Currently amended) An information processing device according to claim 42, wherein the flowing links move at a default non-zero flow speed and a default flow direction within the flow zone, and the ~~input device is controlled by the user to user~~ input events selectably change the flow speed or flow direction.

44. (Currently amended) An information processing device according to claim 43, ~~wherein the input device is including~~ a user operable point-and-select device for providing the input events including selecting a location within the flow zone, and wherein flow of the flowing links within the flow zone is stoppable in response to the user statically selecting a location within the flow zone with the user operable point-and-select device.

45. (Currently amended) An information processing device ~~according to claim 43~~ for exploring information by a user, comprising:

a display screen to display a plurality of flowing links within a flow zone, each of the flowing links being linked to respective information units for display as a presentation in a presentation zone of the display screen; and

a controller that is responsive to user input events within the flow zone to selectively change flow speed and flow direction,

wherein the flow speed changes in response to ~~the user~~ input events that include selecting a location of the display screen with ~~the an~~ input device and dragging the selected location in the flow direction.

46. (Currently amended) An information processing device according to claim ~~43~~ 45, wherein the flow direction is reversed in response to the user selecting a location and dragging the selected location against the flow direction.

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47. (Currently amended) An information processing device according to claim 43, wherein the flow zone is arranged to ~~alternately~~ display the links and flow control areas, and the flow is controlled by selecting the flow control areas with the input device.

48. (Currently amended) An information processing device according to claim 42, wherein ~~the start of a~~ presentation of the content from the related information unit ~~responds to the user~~ is initiated by a user input event that includes dragging the a selected link to the presentation zone.

49. (Previously presented) An information processing device according to claim 42, further comprising:

a filtering unit including a plurality of user selectable filters for controlling the flow zone to display links to information units which meet a requirement imposed by a selected filter.

50. (Previously presented) An information processing device according to claim 49, wherein the filtering unit adapts the selected filter to display links to information units similar to the related information unit.

51. (Previously presented) An information processing device according to claim 42, further comprising:

a user-link unit to maintain a plurality of preferred user-links and display the user-links in a further zone.

52. (Previously presented) An information processing device according to claim 51, further comprising:

a detector for communicating with a user supplied data carrier in response to control by the user-link unit for sorting and/or retrieving the user-links.

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53. (Currently amended) An information processing device according to claim 52, wherein the display screen is a table top touch screen and the user supplied data carrier is a token that interacts with the detector through placement on the table top touch screen.

54. (Currently amended) An information processing device according to claim 51, wherein a frequency of display of an information unit in the flow zone is determined by its an age and/or popularity of the information unit.

55. (Previously presented) An information processing device according to claim 42, further comprising:
a table for supporting the display screen.

56. (Previously presented) An information processing device according to claim 42, wherein the respective information units for display on the display screen correspond to a location of the information processing device.

57. (Currently amended) An information processing device according to claim 42, wherein the display screen and the input device controller are embodied as part of a portable device.

58. (Previously presented) An information processing device according to claim 57, wherein the portable device is a hand-held device.

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59. (Currently amended) An information processing device according to claim 42, wherein

the display screen and the input device controller cooperate to form a graphical user interface,

the display screen is a touch screen adapted for interaction with a user, and

the plurality of flowing links within the flow zone are user responsive display elements displayed around a periphery of the screen, ~~wherein the user strokes and~~
the user input events include stroking the touch screen to induce change in the movement of the flowing links.

60. (Currently amended) A method of accessing internet information content, comprising:

displaying a plurality of flowing links within a flow zone on a display screen of an information processing device, each of the flowing links being linked to respective information units for display as a presentation in a presentation zone of the display screen;

~~controlling an input device of the information processing device to directly alter the flow of the links;~~

selectively changing flow speed and flow direction of the flowing links based on one or more user input events within the flow zone ~~via a flow control means in said flow zone which is responsive to a user input;~~

~~selecting one of the flowing links with the input device to display~~ displaying a linked information unit based on a user selection of one of the plurality of flowing links.

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61. (Currently amended) A computer program product embodied in a computer-readable medium, comprising:

computer readable program code means for displaying a plurality of flowing links within a flow zone on a display screen of an information processing device, each of the flowing links being linked to respective information units for display as a presentation in a presentation zone of the display screen;

computer readable program code means for responding to an input device of the information processing device for selectively changing flow speed and flow direction of the flowing links via a flow control means in said based on a manipulation of the input device that produce user input events within the flow zone; and

computer readable program code means for responding to the input device to select one of the flowing links to display a linked information unit.

62. (Previously presented) A table according to claim 41, wherein said touch screen is an integral part of said table.

63. (Previously presented) A table according to claim 41, wherein said table includes an upper and horizontal table side, and said touch screen is disposed horizontally within said upper table side.

64. (Previously presented) A table according to claim 63, wherein said touch screen is an integral part of said upper table side.

65. (Amended) A table comprising:

a table top;

a graphical user interface occupying a portion of said table top, said graphical user interface comprising a touch screen for interaction by a user and a plurality of user responsive display elements for displaying on the screen, the user responsive display elements comprising:

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a flow zone comprising a list of flowing links displayed ~~around~~ along a periphery of the screen; and

a presentation zone for presenting information selected from the flowing links as a presentation; and

a controller that is responsive to user input events within the flow zone for altering a flow rate of the flowing links.

66. (Previously presented) A table according to claim 65, wherein said touch screen directly abuts a part of said table top.

67. (Previously presented) A table according to claim 65, wherein said touch screen extends to an outer part of said table top.

68. (Previously presented) A table according to claim 67, wherein said touch screen is enclosed in said table top by said outer part.

69. (Previously presented) A table according to claim 65, wherein said flow zone is arranged along all borders of said touch screen.

70 (Canceled)

71. (Currently amended) A table comprising:

an upper table side having a built-in information processing device and touch screen, the touch screen displaying a plurality of user responsive display elements, the user responsive display elements comprising:

a flow zone comprising a list of flowing links displayed around a periphery of the screen; and

a presentation zone for presenting information selected from the flowing links as a presentation; and

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_____ a controller that is responsive to user input events within the flow zone for altering a flow rate of the flowing links.

72. (Previously presented) A table according to claim 71, wherein said touch screen is disposed horizontally and enclosed within an outer part of said upper table side.

73. (Currently amended) A table comprising:

an upper and substantially horizontal table side; and

an information processing device, comprising:

a display screen disposed substantially horizontally in said upper table side to display a plurality of flowing links within a flow zone, each of the flowing links being linked to respective information units for display as a presentation in a presentation zone of the display screen; and

an input device responsive to control by the user to directly alter the flow of the links and to select one of the flowing links; and

_____ a controller that is responsive to user input events within the flow zone for altering a flow rate of the flowing links.

74. (Previously presented) The table according to claim 73, wherein:

the display screen and the input device cooperate to form a graphical user interface,

the display screen is a touch screen adapted for interaction with a user, and

the plurality of flowing links within the flow zone are user responsive display elements displayed around a periphery of the screen.